

Which American Girl Is? ? to Live in This Palace?

ERICA at this moment possesses a peculiarly interesting and uncommonplace titled visitor in the person of Francis Seymour George Alexander, Earl of Yarmouth.

Earl once gave grave offence to Victoria by dancing in public as a girl. He has done other things worth comment, most of them of a frivolous nature.

Now he is visiting Newport. He brought an air of real gaiety into the somewhat heavy, aristocratic atmosphere of the place.

The Earl, it is shrewdly conjectured, is here to get married. There is every reason to believe he should. He has much to offer an American heiress. He is twenty-eight years old and fairly good looking. His wife will be Countess of Yarmouth at once, and when his father dies he will become Marquis of Hertford and his wife the Marchioness.

He belongs to one of the most ancient families in England, the Seymours. His mother, moreover, possesses one of the most splendid mansions in that kingdom, Ragley Hall, in Warwickshire.

Unfortunately, the Marquis of Hertford is not possessed of a fortune adequate to maintain his great title and estates. In fact, he is impoverished. This nobleman that he has been obliged to close Ragley Hall and live elsewhere. This should be of interest to some American heiress. If she married the Earl of Yarmouth she would doubtless be privileged to reopen Ragley Hall at once and reign as mistress of one of the most splendid houses in England.

at other theatres in the various cities of Australia and New Zealand, exciting, of course, the ridicule of all the more wholesome element of the population, but attracting, nevertheless, huge crowds to the various theatres—crowds prompted by the curiosity of seeing a full-fledged earl, son of the illustrious and historic house of Seymour, in tights and doing "pas seils" as a ballet girl.

The Queen believed that Lord Yarmouth had overstepped altogether the limits of good taste and propriety, and, inasmuch as both society and the public followed the cue of their sovereign in the matter, Lord Hertford considered it prudent to instruct his son to remain in the Antipodes, sheep-ranching and gold-digging, until people had had time to forget his effeminate escapade.

Lord Yarmouth only returned to England a short time ago, and spent last Winter at Nice, where he divided his time between his crony, the Marquis of Anglesey, and the American colony, his participation in several amateur theatrical entertainments while on the Riviera showing that he has not lost his fondness for posturing in public.

Few Americans know how fine a house is Ragley Hall, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford. This is probably because it is remarkable not so much for its antiquity and historical associations as for the beauty of the house and the priceless art treasures it contains.

The charming gardens which lie round the house are said to be unsurpassed in the



THE BOUDOIR

The young Earl is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Scott at Belmead, Newport. An opportunity will be given to him to display his theatrical talents by appearing in an entertainment for charity. Some American society actors who are planning to act with him are Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., Mrs. J. Ellis Hoffman and Mr. Thomas F. Cushing.

The Earl can act, sing and dance better than many a professional. Undoubtedly he would make a success as the star of a burlesque company. At one time in Australia he allowed his enthusiasm for the stage to run away with his dignity.

He appeared at a public theatre in Sydney in the guise of a ballet dancer. He "made up" with golden curls that fell down over his bare shoulders, with rouged cheeks and painted lips, and skirts of gauze that, although voluminous, were very brief—and, in fact, appeared at the footlights in the guise of an exceedingly attractive girl, figuring on the programme as "Mlle. Rose, first ballerina of the San Carlos Theatre at Naples."

So great was the popular success achieved by the Earl that he allowed himself to be induced to appear in similar feminine roles

kingdom, successive owners having devoted as much care and attention to the grounds as to the interior of the mansion.

The house was built by Lord Conway, an ancestor of the present possessor, early in the last century, and though it is planned on a splendid scale, it was much altered and improved by a former Marquis of Hertford, under the direction of the well-known architect, Wyatt. It was he also, a cousin of the late Lord Hertford, who elaborately restored the whole building at a cost of \$150,000, adding among other useful improvements new kitchens and a new ceiling to the splendid hall, which is one of the glories of the place.

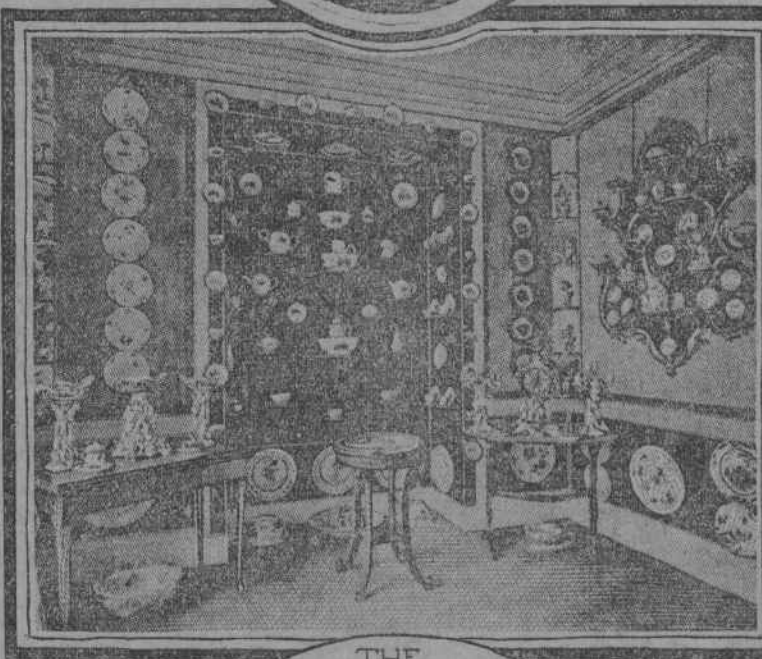
From whatever point the spectator approaches Ragley Hall he cannot but be struck with the splendid proportions of the building. The architecture is Italian. When the mansion was first designed every form of Italian architecture had taken a strong hold on the imagination of cultured Englishmen, and there is no finer specimen of what this enthusiasm produced than Ragley.

The building stands on high ground and is four-fronted; thus from every side can be obtained exquisite views, that over the park from the south side being considered the most beautiful. Perhaps for this reason it is that the great state rooms are situated on that side of the house. The principal entrance is from the east, and leads into the magnificent hall, one of the finest specimens of its class, of which the proportions

The Earl of Yarmouth's Family Is So Poor That They Have Closed Up Ragley Hall.

THE MANTEL PIECE IN-

THE BLUE ROOM



THE CHINA ROOM

And Now the Earl Is at Newport Looking for a Golden Key to Open It.

Some of the finest eighteenth century portraits in the house are to be seen in the large salon looking into the drawing room, an apartment which is hung with crimson brocade, which makes a perfect background to the various paintings, which are one of the great features of the room; and here, as indeed in every room in Ragley, special attention may be drawn to the ceiling, which is red and gold and in excellent keeping with the walls.

There are probably no other drawing rooms in England where there is so much carving and scroll work. One delightful room, known by the name of the Blue Drawing Room, has as a distinctive feature a wonderful looking glass, of which the marble frame is embellished with scroll work in blue and white enameled iron, the Louis XV. furniture in the same apartment being covered with beautiful Beauvais tapestry.

The small dining room is in very much the same style of decoration; the walls are of a blue-gray, with elaborate decorations in high relief, while the chimney-piece is of carved oak.

Ragley Hall contains a splendid collection of Dresden and Old Chelsea china. The guests of the collection are gathered together in what is called the China Room, which is a real museum.

The library contains 30,000 volumes, among them a large and valuable collection of French books by the fourth Marquis, who lived in France.

Although there are some larger mansions

in England, such as Blenheim Palace, and many more historic ones, there is none more beautifully decorated than Ragley and containing a greater collection of art treasures of many kinds. There is certainly no house in America that can be compared with it.

The reason why the present Marquis of Hertford is so poor involves a complicated and romantic story. The third Marquis was the original of Lord Steyne, the wicked nabobman of Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," whose relations with Becky Sharp have excited the interest of the whole English-speaking world.

At that time the Marquisate of Hertford was one of the wealthiest in Great Britain. During the Napoleonic wars the wife of the wicked Marquis was held as a hostage in Paris, and when she was released she was the mother of a fine boy of whom "Lord Steyne" could not possibly have been the father. He adopted the boy, however, and he afterwards became the well known Sir Richard Wallace.

When the fourth Marquis died he left all of the unentailed estates and his money to his half brother, Sir Richard Wallace. The latter received about \$20,000,000. He lived most of his life in Paris, where he gave enormous sums of money for philanthropic purposes. He left Hertford House in London with its art treasures as a museum to the nation.

The fifth Marquis received only Ragley Hall, some agricultural estates and no money. His son, the present nobleman,

has been still further impoverished by the depression in the value of agricultural property in England. It would be impossible to find a more perfect example of "the splendid pauper."

The Marquis could become a comparatively rich man by selling Ragley Hall, but he is doubtless too proud to do that. He is a nobleman of good reputation, and enjoys the friendship and esteem of Queen Victoria. For a time he was Comptroller of the Household, an important court office. It was, perhaps, on account of her friendship for the Marquis that the Queen took occasion to censure the frivolous performances of his son, the Earl of Yarmouth.

The Seymours, to whom the Marquis of Hertford belongs, are one of the most ancient and interesting families in English history. The Marquis is directly descended from the oldest son of the Duke of Somerset, who was Lord Protector of the Realm in the reign of the boy king, Edward VI. This duke lost his head and his title, but his descendants regained his honors.

Our young visitor, the Earl of Yarmouth, has an abstruse past, and a past of his own which rival one another in interest.

A CORNER OF THE GREAT SALON

HOW I, SARAH BERNHARDT, WILL PRESENT HAMLET IN AMERICA.

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SARAH BERNHARDT IN HER FAVORITE POSE AS HAMLET.

PARIS, Aug. 4.—Sarah Bernhardt, soon to visit America in "Hamlet" and other plays, makes the following statement to the New York Journal:

"I hope to give the American people an opportunity of judging of my interpretation of Hamlet. There is so little light upon this subject, and there are so many different views that I cannot expect every one to agree with me. If in England some of the critics did not take my view of Hamlet, the audience showed that they were in accord with me. Tradition does not decide the character of Hamlet, because we have not a continuous, unanimous and unimpaired tradition. The inhabitants of Stratford-on-Avon may have learned from the lips of Shakespeare himself something of the chief character of his greatest tragedy. The Stratford-on-Avonites of to-day certainly fall in with my interpretation of Hamlet. Such local tradition may have some value.

"The internal evidence in the play is the best proof of the character of Hamlet. Students are not usually very quiet. Hamlet was a student. There is no reason for making him an exception to the rule.

"Was Hamlet a strong character? I cannot conceive him otherwise than strong and determined. If he were not so he would not pursue his object with such deadly perseverance. He wishes to punish the King in the severest way possible—namely, by sending him to hell. He kills the King, and, in accordance with the old theology which distinguishes between mortal and venial sin, he kills him when guilty of the former, so as to make sure of his damnation.

"My conception of Hamlet is that he was young and strong and resolute. This is the conception of him which I shall present to the American people. The closer I study the text of Shakespeare the more satisfied I am of the correctness of this view.

"Shakespeare knew the doctrine of purgatory, and makes frequent references to it, as, for instance, 'Until the sins I have committed in my days of nature are purged and burnt away.' If he meant to make Hamlet a weak or vacillating character the prince would not have sent his uncle to purgatory rather than to hell.

"I study my Shakespeare in the French language, but such an excellent translation has been made for me that I think I lose very little even of the shades of thought or of expression in the original.

"I can be thorough and resolute, such as I conceive Hamlet to have been. And though, alas, I am much older than the Prince of Denmark, I am yet capable of being active and lively as he was.

"I am not afraid of seeing a ghost, nor of seeing myself in my coffin. In fact, I was photographed in my coffin some twenty years ago. Another proof of my view that Hamlet was a strong and fearless character is to be found in the fact that he spoke to the ghost. Hamlet was a man of thought, and did not act merely upon impulse. It is as such that I try to present him.

"I lay much stress upon his character, because, after all, this is the chief thing. His physical characteristics are of little consequence. I do not mean that the physique should not be cultivated and developed, but what does it matter to humanity whether Hamlet was fat or thin? Nor is it difficult to produce physical likeness on the stage. I hold firmly to the belief that a woman can play successfully a man's part. I hope I have demonstrated this in my presentation of Hamlet. I will not, however, go the length of saying that there is no male character which a woman cannot play."

A STURDY little man of two and a half brief Summers who prefers a cigar to a stick of candy and a cornucopia pipe stuffed with "Royal Mixture" to infant food is California's latest contribution to the wonders of the world.

Paul Otis McCabe is the astonishing little fellow's name, and just at present he is paying his first visit to a city, and, with his mother, Mrs. L. E. McCabe, is located at the Van Ness, at No. 1812 Market street, San Francisco. Paul, with his strange taste and love for the leaf that grows in Virginia, has knocked out all the traditional tales that fond mothers follow in the rearing of their offspring. When little Paul cries no sweets are offered the little man as a bribe to withhold the pearly drops, but a cigar is put in his chubby little hands and soon the weed finds its place in the youthful mouth, and Paul snuffs away with the all evident joy of a veteran.

The first thing in the morning on awakening Paul cries for his cigar, and his cheroot brings him comfort just before he drops off to sleep. In between times he takes a whiff at his pipe, though the little man declares he prefers the cigar, and only smokes his pipe "when papa does."

Paul's pernicious habit does not seem in any way to have injured his health. He is unusually large and robust for a little fellow of his age, active and intelligent. In other ways he is much like other children, with the only exception that he is not fond of sweets of any kind.

He talks fluently, abbreviating many of his words in helpful baby fashion, and transposes sentences to meet his demands. His cigar he tenderly refers to as "gag," and his cornucopia is a "smoke pipe."

With willing gracefulness Paul smokes to convince his visitors that really Visalia, the country place from which he hails, has something besides its saddles to be proud of. The cigar he holds deftly between his first and second fingers, and, after puffing away for several moments, declares he had had "a nice smoke."

Little Paul is the adopted child of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. McCabe, of Visalia. He was born at Los Angeles, and at the age of two months was deserted by his mother. He was three months old when the McCabes got him, and, according to Mrs. McCabe, at once showed a preference for tobacco. "When he was three months old," said Mrs. McCabe, "I noticed he enjoyed the smell of tobacco smoke, and when his father would take him in his arms while he was smoking the baby would at once grab for his cigar."

"At the age of one year he began to smoke, and soon developed an inordinate taste for tobacco. Since then he has smoked right along, either cigar or pipe. When he does not get his cigar he cries, and will not be comforted until he has had his tobacco. He smokes the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night."

After her adopted child showed signs of the tobacco habit Mrs. McCabe made inquiries as to his parents, and discovered that the little one's father was an inveterate smoker. "So I have concluded," said Mrs. McCabe, "that the love of tobacco with Paul is an inherited taste, and I consider it useless to try and curb his appetite for it."

Some San Francisco physicians have had their attention drawn to the boy, and they propose to make a close study of him. These will make regular examinations of him from time to time during a course of years. In this way they hope to find whether his constitution will be undermined by the tobacco habit. If this becomes evident, measures will be adopted to try to cure him of the tobacco habit.



MR. PAUL McCABE ENJOYING HIS AFTER-DINNER CIGAR.